

Former Bronte Lady Longhorns named to West Texas All Decade Volleyball Team

Seven former Bronte High School Lady Longhorns were recently named to the West Texas All-Decade Volleyball Team.

Cassidy McWright, Class of 2019, was named as the Setter of the Decade. She was also part of the state championship team in 2017, as well as helped the Lady Longhorns reach the regional final in 2018. Cassidy also earned All-State honors. During her senior year, she averaged 28 assists, 7.3 digs, and 5 aces per match.

Kaycee Baker, Class of 2011, was the 2010 All-West Texas MVP, averaging 17 kills and 9 blocks per match. Her time as a Lady Longhorn included a trip to the state final in 2009 and the regional final in 2010.

Kimber Lee, Class of 2012,

was an all-state player in 2011, with 16.5 kills and 1.8 blocks per match. She also shared Hitter of the Year honors on the All-West Texas team and on her all-district team. Kimber also made trips to the state final in 2009 and regional final in 2010.

Kristen Stilley, Class of 2019, helped lead Bronte to the state title in 2017 and was named the Class 1A Player of the Year. She had 19 kills in the state final and earned state tournament MVP honors. During Kristen's senior season in 2018, she averaged 22 kills and 4 solo blocks.

Alyssa Sallee, Class of 2018, was a member of the state championship team in 2017 and during her senior year averaged 15 kills and 3 solo blocks per match. She was named the All-

West Texas co-Hitter of the Year and was an all-state selection. Alyssa was also her district's Hitter of the Year.

Karen Davis, Class of 2017, led the Lady Longhorns with 14 kills and 23 digs in the 2016 state-final game. She was named all-state and selected for

the TGCA Legacy All-Star team. Karen was named the co-Hitter of the Year in her district and was a member of the All-West Texas team.

Brittany Bedford, Class of 2017, was named the All-West Texas Setter of the Year twice, as well as being named Newcomer of the Year as a sophomore. She was also named all-state during her senior season. Brittany also led the Lady Longhorns with 2 digs in the regional-final winning game.



Cassidy McWright



Kaycee Baker



Kimber Lee



Kristen Stilley



Alyssa Sallee



Karen Davis



Brittany Bedford

cable news give us an amplified version of events and make things SEEM much worse, but a proper frame of historical reference makes it clear that our country has been in far worse shape on many occasions.

When I compare America's challenges in 2020 to those challenges of the past, a few things stick out. First, I worry about the quality of our leadership at every level. There is nothing magic or infallible about our American experiment. Ultimately, our systems of government are only as good as the leaders that are entrusted with the levers of power. Over the years, our country has been blessed with leaders at every level - local, state, and national - who have risen to the challenges presented to them. They have rallied their people, uplifted dispirited and discouraged moods, and made our country stronger for the challenge. We've also had leaders who have fallen before their challenges in disgrace, cowardice, or inaction, and left our society to clean up the mess behind them.

Second, I worry about the lack of trust in our major institutions. From government to media to big business, our society has a great lack of faith in its most powerful institutions. Part of that is the shifting landscape of society (changes in media consumption and the like), which is natural and constant, but an even larger part of it is self-inflicted by the institutions themselves. From sheer incompetence to outright malevolence by bad actors, our society has plenty of reasons to distrust government bureaucracies, media outlets, and powerful corporations.

This lack of trust is frustrating and it is a great paradox - you cannot fix the broken institutions of our society without good people involved, but good people do not want to involve themselves in broken

institutions. I do not profess to have all the answers, but I do think that we can start at the local level. Our systems of government are designed to operate from the bottom up, not from the top down. As such, I think we can restore our trust in our institutions in the same manner. Our people should strive to build better relationships between citizens and their local governments. Attend meetings. Talk to your elected officials. Ask them to walk you through their decision-making process. Too often, local elected officials only experience questions in times of hostility - the old adage that "people only show up when they're mad." I hate that this is the case, because our system was designed for constant interaction between citizens and leaders in all occasions. If you are an elected official reading this essay,

please encourage your citizens to increase their interactions with you. Honest, optimistic questions from citizens are like a breath of fresh air blowing through our local governments. It reminds us why we are called to serve.

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